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OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT: ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Adel Abdellatif (Egypt), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.7

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 37/248 of 31 December 1982, and all other relevant General Assembly resolutions on the promotion of cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community,

Welcoming the strengthening of the Community through the admission of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Seychelles, as member States therein,

Welcoming also the creation of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security as part of the Community, and its role in conflict prevention and maintenance of peace which are essential for development within the region,

Recognizing the strengthening of democratic governance and other positive developments, the consolidation of the peace process, the enhancement of democracy and the respect for the rule of law in the region,

Commending member States of the Community for demonstrating continued commitment to deeper and more formal arrangements for cooperation among themselves,

Reaffirming that the successful implementation of the development programmes of the Community can be achieved only if the Community has adequate resources at its disposal,

Noting that the effects of war, loss of life and destruction of economic and social infrastructure in southern Africa demand the continuation and strengthening of rehabilitation programmes to regenerate the economies of the countries of the region,

Noting with grave concern the recurrence of drought in the areas, the re-emergence of the El Niño phenomenon, with its probable effect of drought, and the risk of increased poverty, in particular in rural areas,

Welcoming with satisfaction the regional Food Security Strategy which regards poverty eradication as a prime concern, and in particular addresses the issues of improving access to food and nutrition,

Recognizing the valuable and effective economic and financial contribution that some organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system have made to complementing national and subregional efforts to advance the process of democratization, rehabilitation and development in southern Africa,

Noting that the situation in Angola has recently become a source of great concern and that, despite earlier successes in the implementation of certain aspects of the Angolan peace process, that situation is still deteriorating,

Expressing its grave concern at the serious difficulties in the peace process in Angola, caused primarily by the slowness of the Unaio Nacional para a Independencia Total de Angola in the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol, which are hampering efforts towards economic rehabilitation and national reconstruction as well as regional development projects,

Recognizing the risks, new challenges and opportunities posed by the process of globalization and liberalization on the economies of the region,

Noting the measures being taken by the Community in addressing the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) pandemic,

Welcoming the recognition at the regional level of the important role that women play in the development of the region and taking note of the Declaration on Gender and Development adopted by the Community heads of State and/or Government in Blantyre, Malawi, on 8 September 1997,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community;[2]

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[1] S/1994/1441, annex.

[2] A/52/400.

2. Commends the Member States and the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system that have maintained, enhanced and initiated development cooperation with the Community;

3. Calls upon the States Members of the United Nations and organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system that have not yet established contact and relationships with the Community to explore the possibility of doing so;

4. Expresses its appreciation to the international community for the financial, technical and material support given to the Community;

5. Renews its appeal to the international community to maintain current levels of, and increase where appropriate, its financial, technical and material support to the Community in order to enable it to implement fully its programme of action and to meet the reconstruction and rehabilitation needs of the region;

6. Appeals to the international community and to relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to extend appropriate assistance to the Community in order to enable it to advance further the process of regional economic integration;

7. Welcomes the economic and political achievements and reforms undertaken within the Community, including the implementation of its programme of action, which are intended to better address the challenges of regional cooperation and integration now and into the next millennium;

8. Also welcomes the Community's efforts to make southern Africa a landmine-free zone, which resulted from a decision of the Community to de-mine the region and reclaim the land for productive purposes, and in this context takes note of the Community's Declaration on Anti-personnel Landmines issued by the Community Summit in Blantyre, Malawi, on 8 September 1997, and appeals to the United Nations, its related bodies and the international community to assist and support the Community in its efforts;

9. Appeals to the United Nations, its related organs and the international community to assist the Community, with the appropriate resources, in implementing the programmes and decisions adopted by various United Nations world conferences, with specific emphasis on the enhancement of the role of women in the development process;

10. Appeals to the international community as well as to the United Nations system to continue to extend much-needed assistance to those countries of the Community that are engaged in the process of national reconstruction so as to enable them to consolidate their efforts to establish a democracy and enhance the implementation of their national development programmes;

11. Expresses its appreciation for the substantial contributions of Member States, United Nations organizations and non-governmental organizations towards meeting the needs of the Angolan people and encourages additional substantial contributions;

12. Appeals to the international community to comply with all relevant Security Council resolutions on Angola pertaining to the peace process, which, together with other efforts, would facilitate the process of rehabilitation and reconstruction of the Angolan economy;

13. Expresses its conviction of the importance of sound, inclusive development strategies to avoid conflict and dislocation, recognizes the value of international cooperation, peacemaking and peacekeeping efforts, and stresses the need for the international community to continue to assist those countries receiving refugees in coping with the resulting economic, social, humanitarian and environmental challenges;

14. Appeals to the United Nations and the international community to assist in the strengthening of the region's capacity for sustainable water resource management and to respond generously with respect to the drought situation in southern Africa so that famine may be averted in the region, by supporting the region in its drought preparedness and management strategies, especially through the strengthening of its capacity to deal with the situation, drought-monitoring early warning and preparedness;

15. Appeals to the United Nations, its related organs and the international community to extend appropriate assistance to the Community Water Sector and to member States of the Community in order that they may advance further in the implementation of the Protocol on Shared Watercourse Systems and in their preparations for the Community Water Sector Round-table Conference scheduled for October 1998;

16. Calls upon the international community to consider supporting the creation of special economic zones and development corridors in the Community, especially the Maputo Development Corridor which is already under implementation with the active participation of the private sector;

17. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Executive Secretary of the Community, to continue to intensify contacts aimed at promoting and harmonizing cooperation between the United Nations and the Community;

18. Also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution.